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COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL
AND CULTURAL RIGHTS
Ninth session
Geneva, 22 November - 10 December 1993

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The ninth session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, established in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/17, will be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 22 November to 10 December 1993. The first meeting will be convened on Monday, 22 November 1993, at 10.30 a.m.

2. The attached provisional agenda and annotations for the ninth session of the Committee have been prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Committee.

3. The attention of the States parties is drawn, in particular, to the annotations to item 4, containing the list of reports that will be before the Committee at its ninth session.

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PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda.

2. Organization of work.

3. Submission of reports by States parties in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant.

4. Consideration of reports:

(a) Reports submitted by States parties in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant;

(b) Reports submitted by specialized agencies in accordance with article 18 of the Covenant.

5. General discussion on the right to health (minimum core content and non-discrimination dimensions) as recognized in article 12 of the Covenant.

6. Relations with United Nations organs and other treaty bodies.

7. Action by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1993 and the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

8. Formulation of suggestions and recommendations of a general nature based on the consideration of reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant and by the specialized agencies.

9. Report of the Committee to the Economic and Social Council.

ANNOTATIONS

1. Adoption of the agenda

Under rule 5 of the rules of procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda of any session shall be the adoption of the agenda, except for the election of its officers when required under rule 14. In accordance with rule 6 the Committee, during a session, may revise the agenda and may, as appropriate, add, delete or defer items.

2. Organization of work

In accordance with rule 8 of its rules of procedure, at the beginning of each session, the Committee shall consider appropriate organizational matters, including the schedule of its meetings. In this connection, the attention of the members of the Committee is drawn to the draft programme of work for the session, prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee and in accordance with established practice (E/C.12/1993/L.2).

3. Submission of reports by States parties in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant

In accordance with rule 59, paragraph 1, of its rules of procedure, the Committee shall at each session consider the status of submission of reports under article 16 of the Covenant and may make appropriate recommendations to the Council, including recommendations to the effect that the Secretary-General should send reminders to States parties from which reports have not been received.

The Committee will have before it under this item the following documents:

(a) Revised schedule for the submission of reports by States parties under articles 16 and 17 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/C.12/1990/5);

(b) A note by the Secretary-General on the States parties to the Covenant and the status of submission of reports (E/C.12/1993/12).

4. Consideration of reports

(a) Reports submitted by States parties in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant

In accordance with rule 61, paragraph 2, of its rules of procedure, the Committee shall normally consider the reports submitted by States parties under article 16 of the Covenant in the order in which they have been received by the Secretary-General. Representatives of the reporting States are entitled to be present at the meetings of the Committee when their reports are examined; such representatives should be able to make statements on the reports submitted by their governments and reply to questions which may be put to them by the members of the Committee.

The Committee, at its eighth session, having discussed the arrangements for the consideration of reports submitted by States parties, requested the Secretary-General to schedule eleven reports from seven States parties for consideration at its ninth session.

In accordance with rule 62, paragraph 2, of the Committee's rules of procedure, the Secretary-General has informed the States parties concerned of the opening date and duration of the ninth session of the Committee as well as of the dates at which their respective reports will be examined and has invited them to send representatives to attend the meetings of the Committee.

As at 1 August 1993, the reports listed below had been received by the Secretary-General. The reports of the States parties which are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its ninth session are identified by an asterisk. The tentative timetable for consideration of those reports, prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, is contained in document E/C.12/1993/L.2.

Initial reports concerning articles 6 to 9 of the Covenant

Senegal*	(E/1984/6/Add.22)

Initial reports concerning articles 10 to 12 of the Covenant

Nicaragua*	(E/1986/3/Add.15) (E/1986/3/Add.16)

Second periodic reports concerning articles 13 to 15 of the Covenant

Germany*	(E/1990/7/Add.12)
Romania	(E/1990/7/Add.14)
Iraq	(E/1990/7/Add.15)

Initial reports concerning articles 1 to 15 of the Covenant

New Zealand*	(E/1990/5/Add.5) (E/1990/5/Add.11) (E/1990/5/Add.12)
Iceland*	(E/1990/5/Add.6) (E/1990/5/Add.14)
Uruguay*	(E/1990/5/Add.7)
Morocco	(E/1990/5/Add.3)
Belgium	(E/1990/5/Add.15)

Second periodic reports concerning articles 1 to 15 of the Covenant

Mexico*	(E/1990/6/Add.4)

(b) Reports submitted by specialized agencies in accordance with article 18 of the Covenant

In accordance with rule 67 of its rules of procedure, the Committee is entrusted with the task of considering the reports submitted by specialized agencies pursuant to article 18 of the Covenant.

In accordance with rule 68 of the rules of procedure, the representatives of the specialized agencies concerned may make statements on matters falling within the scope of the activities of their respective organization in the course of the discussion by the Committee of the report of each State party to the Covenant. The representatives of the States parties presenting reports to the Committee shall be free to respond to, or take into account, the statements made by the specialized agencies. The Secretary-General has invited the following specialized agencies to send representatives to attend the meetings of the Committee: International Labour Organisation (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and World Health Organization (WHO).

Any report which may be received from the specialized agencies under article 18 of the Covenant will be made available to the Committee in due course.

5. General discussion on the right to health (minimum core content and non-discrimination dimensions) as recognized in article 12 of the Covenant

At its eighth session, the Committee decided that at its ninth session a day of general discussion would be held on Monday, 6 December 1993, devoted to the right to health with particular emphasis, in that context, on the implications of the principle of non-discrimination and of the concept that there is a minimum core content of each right which constitutes a "floor" below which the conditions should not be permitted to fall in any State party. For this purpose, the Committee agreed to invite all interested agencies and individual experts to participate in its general discussion.

6. Relations with United Nations organs and other treaty bodies

The Committee decided at its sixth session to nominate individual members to follow the work of each of the other treaty bodies. Such members are to follow as closely as possible the work of the relevant committees, to liaise where possible with members of these committees and to present an oral report on developments of both a procedural and substantive nature in the work which appeared to be of specific relevance to the work of the Committee (E/1992/23, paras. 371-373).

7. Action by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1993 and the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session

The Committee, at its fourth session, decided that, at its future sessions, a new item should be added to its agenda so as to enable it to reflect on any feedback received from the discussion of its work by the Council, as well as by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights (E/1990/23, para. 297).

The Committee will have before it under this item the following documents:

(a) Economic and Social Council decisions 1993/294, 1993/295, 1933/296, 1993/297 and 1993/298;

(b) Relevant General Assembly resolutions.

8. Formulation of suggestions and recommendations of a general nature based on the consideration of reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant and by the specialized agencies

Pursuant to rule 64 of its rules of procedure, the Committee may wish to make suggestions and recommendations of a general nature on the basis of its consideration of reports submitted by States parties and the reports submitted by specialized agencies, in order to assist the Council to fulfil, in particular, its responsibilities under articles 21 and 22 of the Covenant. The Committee may also wish to make suggestions for consideration by the Council with reference to articles 19, 22 and 23 of the Covenant.

9. Report of the Committee to the Economic and Social Council

In accordance with rule 57 of its rules of procedure, the Committee shall submit to the Council an annual report on its activities, which shall contain, inter alia, the concluding observations of the Committee relating to each State party's report.

The Committee shall also include in its report suggestions and recommendations of a general nature referred to under rule 64 of the rules of procedure of the Committee.